

REMARKS

In the foregoing claim, the artifact “~~an~~” is removed from claim 8.

Contrary to the Section 4, items C and E of Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated July 5, 2006, the status identifier provided for claim 8, “Previously presented,” in the Supplemental Amendment dated April 18, 2006, was correct. When cleaning previously supplied marks in claim 8, a previously deleted word, “an,” which was printed in strike-through format, was inadvertently left in claim 8. However, claim 8 clearly was not further amended in the Supplemental Amendment because the strike-through indicates the word was deleted. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that any average human being working in this field would have instantly recognized that the “~~an~~” present in claim 8 of the Supplemental Amendment was an inadvertent artifact remaining from the previous amendment.

It is respectfully submitted that such notices of non-compliance do not serve to compact the prosecution in any way and, in fact, only serve to increase backlog in the Office and costs to applicants. In view of possible patent term lost by way of this unnecessary delay, it is respectfully requested that the Patent Office adjust the calculation of any patent term adjustment associated with this application accordingly.

Allowance of the present application, without further delay, is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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